

(b) Does not arise.

Privatisation of Government Hospitals

360. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to hand over the management of Government Hospitals to private sector or foreign multinational Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Indian in Pakistani Jails

361. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indians in Pakistani jails at present;

(b) the number of women and children out of them;

(c) the number of persons who have been there for over a year; and

(d) the steps taken to repatriate them during the last one year ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d) According to available information, there are at present 1318 Indian civilian prisoners in the custody of Pakistan, including 38 Indian children lodged at the Edhi Welfare Centre, Karachi. Out of these, 1233 prisoners have been in Pakistani custody for more than one year.

In addition, 54 Indian defence personnel missing from the 1965 and 1971 wars are believed to be in custody in Pakistan.

The question of the early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners under detention in Pakistan has been repeatedly taken up with the Government of Pakistan. The matter was also raised by the External Affairs Minister in his meeting with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan on 18.12.1996. Our efforts continue.

Promotion of Sports

362. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lay emphasis on the promotion and development of sports and games in Ninth Plan;

(b) whether there is a growing demand to enhance allocation for sports and games;

(c) if so, the funds proposed to be earmarked for the same during the Ninth-Plan; and

(d) the various schemes drawn up for the promotion of sports and games in the above plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT : (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Planning Commission have not yet indicated the allocations for sports and games during the Ninth Plan period.

(d) In addition to the existing schemes, various new schemes have been incorporated in the Ninth Plan proposals for the promotion of sports and games in the country and for achieving excellence at the international level. These include—scheme for training of elite sportspersons; scheme for Inter-school tournaments at various levels; a special scheme for the North-Eastern region, etc.

Mini Port at Kulpi (West Bengal)

363. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Industries Development Corporation and Mukunda Group of Industries, have signed MOU to set up a Mini Port at Kulpi, in South 24 Parganas, in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the project report has since been produced by Mukunda Group of Industries and submitted to the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) It is learnt that such an MOU has been signed.

(b) The State Government of West Bengal forwarded a copy of the techno-economic feasibility study prepared by Bengal Port Limited, through M/s. Howe India Private Limited in connection with seeking Central Government clearance for the proposed port location. Subsequently, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) engaged Indian Ports Association (IPA) for appraisal of Bengal Port Limited's proposal on Development of Port & Related Facilities and Industrial Complex at Kulpi.

(c) According to IPA's appraisal the development of port and other facilities proposed at Kulpi is an unviable venture.

(d) The Ministry has conveyed its no objection to the preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR), with the suggestion that various issues having implications on Calcutta Port should be addressed in the DPR.

National AIDS Control Organisation

364. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :
SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether senior level post in National AIDS Control Organisation is being occupied by a Public Health expert rather than STD Consultant and the post of STD Adviser to Government of India remains abandoned since 1990;

(b) if so, the steps taken to post STD experts to man NACO in order to control AIDS effectively; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the Regional STD Teaching, Training and Research Centres including the Centre at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi to fill up the posts which are lying vacant for many years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The post of Addl. Director (NACO) is included in the Public Health Sub Cadre of Central Health Service & is accordingly occupied by a Public Health Officer in the pay scale of Rs. 4500-5700. There is no sanctioned post of STD (Consultant) or STD Adviser to the Govt. of India in NACO.

(c) The position is given in the statement attached.

The Regional STD Teaching, Training and Research Centres were established to cater on zonal basis with the following objectives during the sixth Plan period :—

- Training and Teaching of inservice Medical and para medical personnel in the discipline of STDs
- To conduct inter-laboratory evaluation for standardisation of specific tests for syphilis
- Research work leading to laboratory diagnosis of STDs
- Survey activities to understand the epidemiology of the disease, and
- Health and Community Education and Social mobilisation

These components are being operated by all the Regional Centres including one at Safdarjung Hospital. Grants are being released to State Governments and Administrative approval to Central Institutions are being

released/conveyed every year out of National STD Control Programme budget for meeting the expenditure on :

- Salary of staff,
- Stipend to trainees attending orientation courses,
- Consumables (Glassware, Reagents, Kits, chemicals disposables etc.),
- P.O.L. and maintenance of vehicles, and
- Contingency grant to meet expenditure on
 - (a) Honorarium to the faculty members (not for Central institutes)
 - (b) books and journals,
 - (c) stationery, and
 - (d) postage etc.;

The administrative approval during the last three years given to Regional Centre at S.J. Hospital is as under :

1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Rs. 1,00,000/-	Rs. 3,00,000/-	Rs. 2,00,000/-

Under the National AIDS Control Programme, commodity grant is being provided to these centres by providing certain equipments to strengthen these centres. In the Deptt. of Skin & STD of Safdarjung Hospital, only one post of Specialist in Skin & VD is vacant and the recruitment process is under way.

Rate of Male and Female Literacy

365. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken by the Union Government to improve performance in Human Resource Development during the current financial year, particularly in the field of education;

(b) the improvement recorded in the percentage of literacy; and

(c) the latest rate of male and female literacy, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) The Ministry of Human Resource Development was set up in 1985 with the objective of integrated efforts for development of Human potential in areas of education, Women and Child Development, Arts and Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports. During 1995-96 the Ministry continued its efforts in fulfilling this objective through its constituent